

JUN 16 1966

*Institute for Defense
Analysis*

Free-Thinking

THE appointment of Gen. Maxwell D. Taylor to run the Institute of Defense Analyses, that super-secret and free-spending Defense Department "think factory," presents this long-time public servant with a golden opportunity to tighten up the operation.

By that we mean to cut out the fancy frills with which IDA apparently has been indulging its top brass — such amenities as paying the interest on a vice president's \$45,000 personal bank loan and giving the families of 13 scientists a free (for them) summer trip to Europe. (See Julian Morrison's story on page 2).

IDA is only one of many Government brain trusts that have sprung up since World War II and the munificence apparently practiced by its management—at taxpayers' expense—is no worse than that already uncovered in

similar organizations—notably the Aerospace Corporation.

But somehow it always shocks us when more of the same thing turns up — taxpayer-financed travel for dependents and, in IDA's case, taxpayer-financed education for a man who wasn't even an employee!

In all too many instances, it seems individuals attaching themselves to these non-profit Government research organizations have had a splendid time on the free ride they offer. We don't necessarily fault the basic idea of these think factories. But those of us who work hard for our money like to see it used less lavishly.

We are confident that Rep. George H. Mahon (D. Tex.), who already has cast a jaundiced eye at IDA, will follow with interest the efforts of Gen. Taylor to make certain the American people get what they're paying for.